(a) whether Government have received a proposal from Child Development Project Officer, Athamalik, Orissa for sanction of grant-in-aid to build a Women's Home by ALOKA;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to consider it;

(c) if so, the time-frame therefor; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The question does not arise.

Quality Education in Basic Sciences

3591. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made on the impact of emergence of Information Technology on the quality of education in basic sciences, engineering and arts;

(b) whether the number of unemployed engineering graduates in civil, electrical and mechanical is on the increase; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to sustain quality education in the aforesaid disciplines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the information provided by AICTE, there is some increase in respect of unemployed engineering graduates. However, in respect of basic engineering disciplines like civil, electrical and mechanical the overall demand and supply gap is not expected to increase widely.

(c) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) monitors performance as well as maintenance of prescribed norms and standards of the approved technical institutes. Quality education in technical institutions is sustained through the mechanism of accreditation carried out by National Board of Accreditation established under the All India Council for Technical Education

(AICTE) Act lb improve quality of faculty in technical institutes, AICTE operates various Faculty Development Programmes, like Quality Improvement Programmes (QIP), Continuing Education Programmes (CEP), Early Faculty Induction Programmes (EFIP), etc.

Higher Education for Women

† 3592. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of universities and colleges in the country has increased manifold after Independence, whereas the increase in the number of women's education institutes has been negligible;

(b) if so, the data in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have any programme for furtherance of women in higher education; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b). No, Sir. According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), there has been five-fold increase in the number of universities and nine-fold increase in the number of colleges in the country, as compared to Universities/Colleges existing in 1958-59 and 1999-2000. The increase in the number of universities and colleges for women is five-times and ten-times respectively during the same period. A statement indicating the number of universities and colleges from 1951 to 1999-2000 is enclosed as Statement *(See* below).

(c) UGC has initiated a number of schemes like Special Scheme for Construction of Women's Hostels, Part-time Research Associateship for Women, Women Study Centres and Cells, etc. to promote higher education for girl students. The Commission has also introduced a new Scheme *viz.* Technology for Women' in Women Universities for starting B. Tech. courses in Electronic & Communication, Computer Science & Technology, and Information & Technology.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.